Remarks:

This preliminary amendment is made to add a government rights statement to the application. No new matter is being added.

The applicant respectfully requests consideration of this application, and its early allowance of all claims.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (310) 333-3660.

Respectfully submitted,

Seannette M. Walder

Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 33,698

Telephone: (310) 333-3660

convetto Walder

El Segundo, California

Date: November 2, 2001



VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

In the Specification:

A new paragraph is added on page 1, between lines 3 and 4:

GOVERNMENT INTEREST

This invention was made, in part, with government support under Contract No. 11236-001-00 4V awarded by the Department of Energy. The Government has certain rights in this invention.